

What is “A Practicum in Tropical Medicine”?

- Given at NMRC-Peru for 8 students between 1st and 2nd years for four weeks
- On-site, hands-on approach to trop disease training in:
 - **recognition** of clinical **syndromes** and the broadened **differential dx** in the tropics
 - **evidence based mgt** of dz
 - principles of **laboratory research** in tropical diseases
 - understand **interface between clinical care and investigation.**
 - principles of **vector control** and tropical dz.
 - work with DoD physicians on medical **humanitarian service missions**

Selection Criteria

- Academically qualified prior service officers eligible (ROTC, Academy, Prior Active Duty)
 - OSA approved, GPA/Performance based
 - Email invite from CDR Calloway
- Application, curriculum vitae
- Statement describing interest in Preventive Medicine/Infectious Disease
 - Critical discriminating factor for selection
- Spanish language skills preferred

2007 Timeline

- **21 Jul, Lima**—Arrive Peru
- **22-26 Jul, Lima**—Orientation, NMRC-D-Lima orientation, tour Peruvian Naval medical facilities
- **27-29 Jul, Cuzco**—Tour Cuzco, local ruins, and Machu Picchu
- **30 Jul-05 Aug, Iquitos**—Observe dengue fever and malaria research, tour local hospitals
- **06-10 Aug, Amazon River Basin**—Medical mission
- **11-14 Aug, Lima**—Tour neurological institute, tropical medicine institute, local hospitals, and serpentarium (antivenom production)
- **15 Aug, Paracas**—Depart for Paracas, earthquake, egress tsunami zone
- **16 Aug, Pisco**—US ambassador orders group to Pisco to provide humanitarian aid and disaster relief
- **17 Aug, End of Mission**—DEA plane flies group to Lima, depart Lima for US

Conclusion

- **Invaluable experience**
 - Increased interest in Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease/Preventive Medicine
 - Experienced patients “in vivo”
 - Learned about public health challenges
 - Interacted with local HCWs
 - Experienced the reality of available health facilities in the developing world
 - Recognized difficulties of evaluating/treating deployed troops who become ill
 - Gained logistics experience in setting up clinics, research sites, etc
 - Personal experience with vaccines, antimalarials, antidiarrheals, third world bureaucracies
- **POC is CDR Calloway at mcalloway@usuhs.mil**